

Temiar language

Temiar is a Central Aslian (Mon–Khmer) language spoken in Western Malaysia by the Temiar people. The Temiar are one of the most numerous Aslian-speaking peoples, numbering around 30,000 in 2017.^[4] Etymologically, the word "Temiar" means "edge" or "side". This meaning reflects the way in which Temiars describe themselves as "people of the edge, outside, [i.e. jungle]."^[5]

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Temiar	
Native to	Peninsular Malaysia
Ethnicity	25,000 (2008) ^[1]
Native speakers	28,000 (2016) ^{[2][1]}
Language family	Austroasiatic <ul style="list-style-type: none">Aslian<ul style="list-style-type: none">Senoic<ul style="list-style-type: none">Temiar
Writing system	Latin
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	tea
Glottolog	temi1246 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/temi1246) ^[3]

Phonology

Vowels

Oral vowels

	<u>Front</u>	<u>Central</u>	<u>Back</u>
<u>Close</u>	ɪ iː	ʉ ʉː	u uː
<u>Close-mid</u>	e eː		o oː
<u>Open-mid</u>	ɛ ɛː	ə əː	ɔ ɔː
<u>Open</u>		a aː	

Nasal vowels

	<u>Front</u>	<u>Central</u>	<u>Back</u>
<u>Close</u>	ɨ ɨː	ɤ ɤː	ɯ ɯː
<u>Mid</u>	ɛ̃ ɛ̃ː		ɔ̃ ɔ̃ː
<u>Open</u>		ã ãː	

Consonants

		<u>Bilabial</u>	<u>Dental</u>	<u>Palatal</u>	<u>Velar</u>	<u>Glottal</u>
<u>Plosive</u>	<u>voiceless</u>	p	t	c	k	ʔ
	<u>voiced</u>	b	d	ɟ	g	
<u>Nasal</u>		m	n	ɲ	ŋ	
<u>Rhotic</u>			r			
<u>Lateral</u>			l			
<u>Fricative</u>				ɕ		h
<u>Approximant</u>		w		j		

Morphosyntax

Noun Phrase

The noun phrase is (pro)noun initial followed by modifiers and demonstratives or possessor pronouns. Pronouns may not be modified by another pronoun.^[6] There are three allomorphic classes of pronouns (stressed unstressed, and bound). Stressed third person pronouns must occur with a demonstrative (and hence only occur as unstressed or as bound morphemes on the demonstrative (*e.g. na-doh* 'he-here' or *ʔuntu:y* 'they-elsewhere').^[6]

Stressed Pronouns

Person	Singular	Dual		Plural	
		Inclusive	Exclusive	Inclusive	Exclusive
1	ye:ʔ	ʔa:r	ya:r	ʔɛ:ʔ	kanɛ:ʔ
2	ha:ʔ	kəʔan		ɲɔb	

Unstressed Pronouns

Person	Singular	Dual		Plural	
		Inclusive	Exclusive	Inclusive	Exclusive
1	yeh	ʔah	yah	ʔɛh	kanɛh
2	hah	kəʔan		ɲɔb	
3	ʔəh	weh wɛh		ʔun ʔən	

Bound Pronouns

Person	Singular	Dual		Plural	
		Inclusive	Exclusive	Inclusive	Exclusive
1	ʔi-	ʔa-	ya-	ʔɛ-	kanɛ- ki- kɛ-
2	ha-	kəʔa-		ɲɔ(b)-	
3	na- ʔə-	we- wɛ-		ʔun-	

Verb Phrase

The verb phrase is ordered as sentential negation, auxiliary verb and main verb. The verb phrase precedes the subject.^[6]

Further reading

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- Benjamin, Geoffrey. 2011. "Deponent verbs and middle-voice nouns in Temiar." In: Sophana Srichampa & Paul Sidwell (eds), *Austroasiatic Studies: Papers from ICAAL4 (=Mon-Khmer Studies, Special Issue no. 2)*, Canberra: Pacific Linguistics E-8, pp. 11–37. ISBN 9780858836419 (electronic document)
- Benjamin, Geoffrey. 2012. "The peculiar history of the ethnonym 'Temiar'." *Sojourn: Journal of Social Issues in Southeast Asia* 27(2): 205–233. ISSN 0217-9520 (<https://www.worldcat.org/search?fq=x0:jrn&q=n2:0217-9520>) (print), ISSN 1793-2858 (<https://www.worldcat.org/search?fq=x0:jrn&q=n2:1793-2858>) (online) doi:10.1355/sj27-2a (<https://doi.org/10.1355%2Fsj27-2a>). JSTOR 43186934 (<https://www.jstor.org/stable/43186934>).
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References

1. Temiar (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/tea/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Geoffery Benjamin, A new outline of Temiar grammar, Part 1 (https://www.researchgate.net/publication/291246946_A_new_outline_of_Temiar_grammar_Part_1?channel=doi&linkId=569f1cb808ae2c638eb5ac3b&showFulltext=true)

3. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Temiar" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/temi1246>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
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External links

- <http://projekt.ht.lu.se/rwaai> RWAAI (Repository and Workspace for Austroasiatic Intangible Heritage)
 - <http://hdl.handle.net/10050/00-0000-0000-0003-D44A-D@view> Temiar in RWAAI Digital Archive
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